

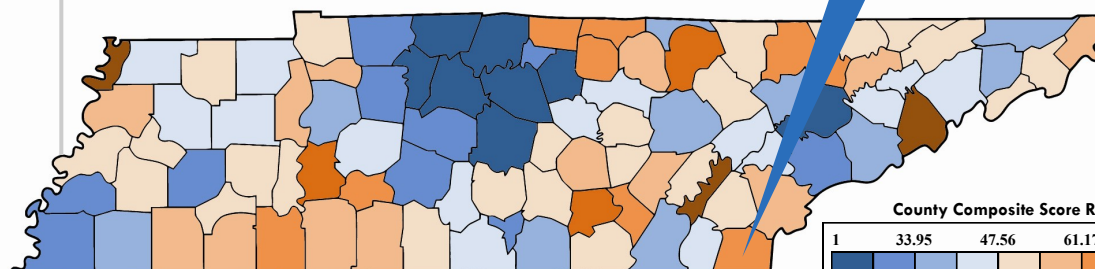
# The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

## SNAPSHOT: POLK COUNTY

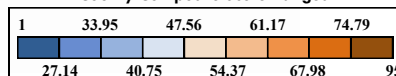
2012

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County Composite Score Ranges



Ranges defined as 0.5 standard deviations from the mean score of 47.56.

Population (2010): **16,825**Pop. Density: **37/square mile**Seat of Government: **Benton**Largest City: **Benton**

Down from 47th

COUNTY	RANK	INDICATOR SCORES & RANKINGS	DATA	RANK
Lawrence	73	Employment and Earnings Composite	76.60	93 ▼
Dyer	74	Median Annual Earnings for Full Time Employed Females*	\$25,886	74 ▼
Overton	75	Wage Gap (Female Earnings as a Percentage of Male Earnings)	72.20%	70 ▼
Hardeman	76	Female Labor Force Participation Rate (Ages 20-64)	57.7%	86 ▼
McNairy	77	Female Unemployment Rate (Ages 20-64)	12.5%	84 ▼
Grainger	78	Percent of Management Occupations Held by Women	31.8%	69 ▲
Houston	79	Economic Autonomy Composite	50.13	54 ▼
Johnson	80	Women-owned Businesses Percent of Total	25.5%	32 ▼
Clay	81	Percent of Females with 4-Year Degree or More (Age 25+)	9.7%	82 ▼
Polk	82	Percent of Females with High School Diploma or Equivalent (Age 25+)	72.7%	83 ▼
Hardin	83	Female High School Dropout Rate	0.00%	1 ▲
Lewis	84	Percent of Women Uninsured (65 and under)	17.0%	66 ▲
Jackson	85	Percent of Females Below Poverty Level	23.5%	74 ▼
Sequatchie	86	Percent of Female-Headed Households with Children in Poverty*	49.7%	62 ▼
Union	87	Rate of Pregnancy for Girls Age 15-19 per 1000*	0	1 ▲
Campbell	88	County Overview: Women in Meigs County have experienced economic trends that resulted in one of the largest drops in overall rankings between 2000 and 2010. In relative rankings, the positive indicators came from management presence and the rate of uninsured women—both of which continue to rank poorly despite relative improvement—and the two indicators pertaining to teens. Aside from these, each indicator dropped for Polk relative to its peers, and all but female business ownership are ranked in the bottom third of the state.		
Macon	89			
Perry	90			
Fentress	91			

Note: all figures are based on estimates formed from sample data and are subject to sample error and rounding.

\* The American Community Survey (ACS) is an annual demographic survey of the U.S. It provides the detailed demographic, economic and housing data that was once supplied by the Decennial Census Long Form. The ACS has a smaller sample so combines several years' data to produce multi-year estimates. Due to the small sample size there is an increased margin of error in many less populated counties for this indicator.

\*\* The 2005 County by County figures were based on a sample of girls age 10-19, whereas the 2012 report reflects the population of girls age 15-19.

† ACS sampling sizes are insufficient to publish certain figures for this category. An estimate was developed from the performance of surrounding counties for the purposes of creating a composite score.

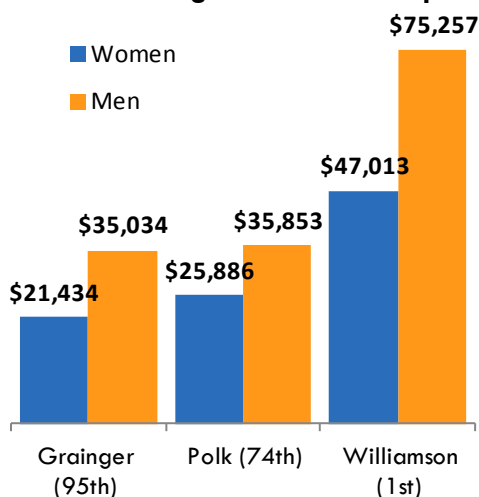
‡ Estimates are too unreliable or not available to be included in composite calculations. Any figure shown is an estimate for the reader's benefit only.

# The Status of Women in: Polk County

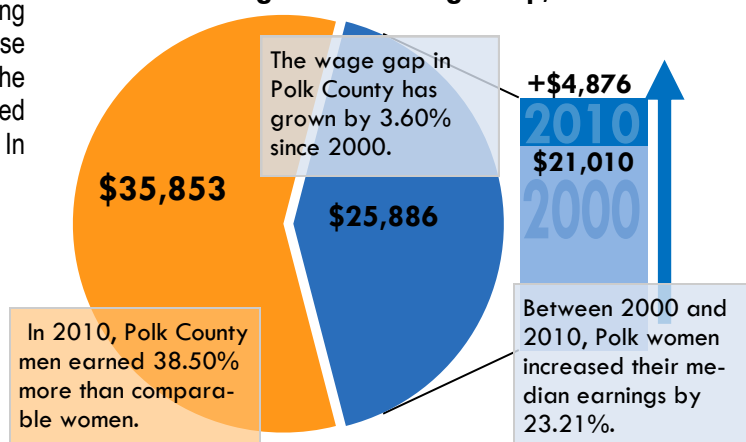
## ▼ Earnings

**P**olk County women made meager gains in median income between 2000 and 2010, adding \$4,876, or 23.21 percent to their wages. This increase was slower than the rate of inflation as well as the growth of male incomes in the county, and caused Meigs to drop in this indicator, from 48th to 74th. In contrast, local men are ranked 52nd statewide.

### Median Earnings: Counties Compared



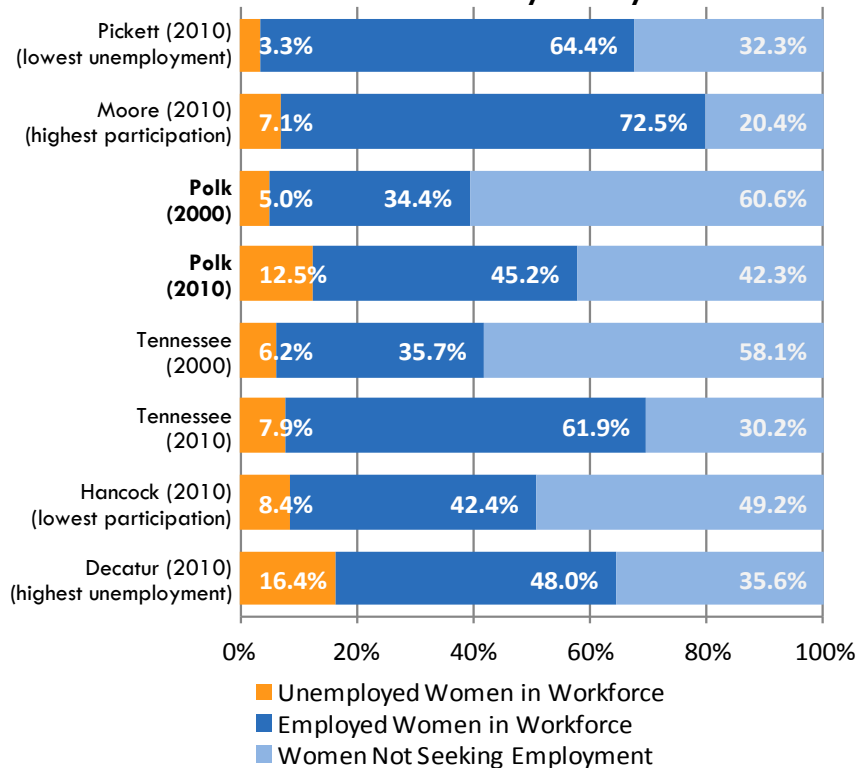
### Median Earnings and the Wage Gap, 2000-2010



**Because** female income grew roughly six percent slower than male earnings in the county, the wage disparity between genders has grown in Polk. Increasing 3.6 percent between 2000 and 2010, women are now estimated to make only 72.20 percent of the wages local men earn—an annual difference of \$9,967—and Polk has plummeted in this indicator's rankings from 22nd to 70th. Women in Polk also earn significantly less than the statewide median for women of \$31,585.

## ▼ Employment

### Workforce Access for Women By County and Year



**Women** in Polk County continue to be among the least likely in Tennessee to participate in their local workforce. At 57.7 percent, Polk falls more than 12 percent short of statewide estimates, and has sunk to the bottom of counties in this measure; it fell 15 spots to 86th in 2010.

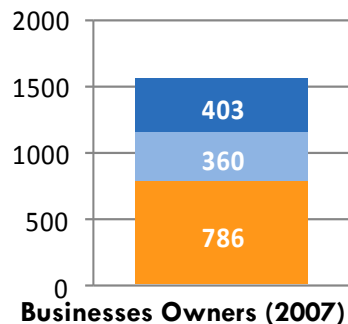
Men are 19 percent more likely to participate in the labor pool, and fewer than half of women with children under six (46.9 percent) are estimated to be employed or searching for work.

Polk County's female unemployment rate performed even worse in statewide comparisons and more than doubled between 2000 and 2010. Growing to include 12.5 percent of local women, the rate forced Polk from 25th to 84th in state rankings.

Echoing state trends, fewer men are unemployed (9.3 percent), but women with young children are reported to have astonishingly little unemployment, at a rate of 1.2 percent.

# The Status of Women in: Polk County

■ Female Owned ■ Joint-Owned  
■ Male Owned



**Polk** County women have made notable gains in managerial presence since 2000. Countywide, nearly 9.2 percent more managers are now female, rising to 69th from 87th, but still falling short of state estimates by 4.2 percent.

Women are estimated to a much smaller share of local businesses, however. In fact, this indicator dropped by 13.3 percent and 19 ranks, to 32nd statewide.

If counting jointly owned businesses as well, women have at least a partial stake in 49.3 percent of local businesses and employ 15 percent of Polk workers.

## Women At Work

### Business Management

The incidence of women managers in Polk County increased from 22.6% to 31.8% between 2000 and 2010.

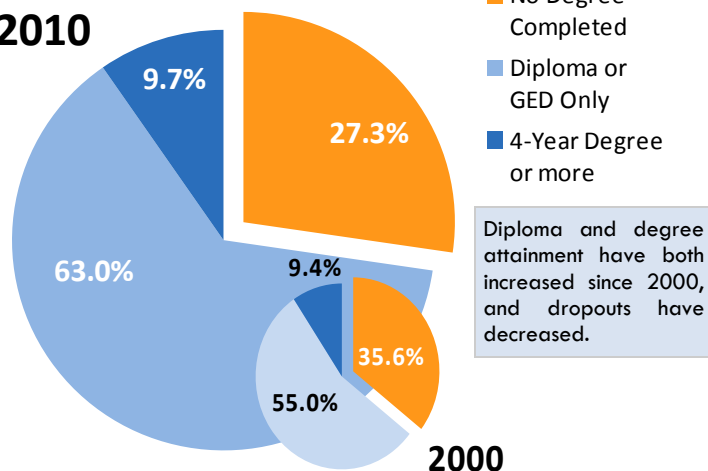
### Business Ownership

The percentage of women business owners in Polk decreased, however, from 38.8% to 25.5% between 2000 and 2007.

## Education

Educational Attainment Above Age 25

2010



**Degree** attainment and high school graduation rates in Polk ranked poorly in the state in 2000, and have continued to struggle since then.

The rate at which women have earned diplomas in Meigs has increased 8.3 percent, to 72.7 percent, but still falls over ten percent below the statewide rate. Polk fell from 75th to 83rd in this indicator.

A slightly larger percentage of Meigs women have earned degrees since 2000 as well. Roughly one in ten women now hold a degree, but this was a small enough improvement for Polk to drop 23 places, to 82nd, in this category.

In contrast, no dropouts were reported in the county for the 2011-12 school year, causing Polk to tie for first place after ranking 45th in 2000.

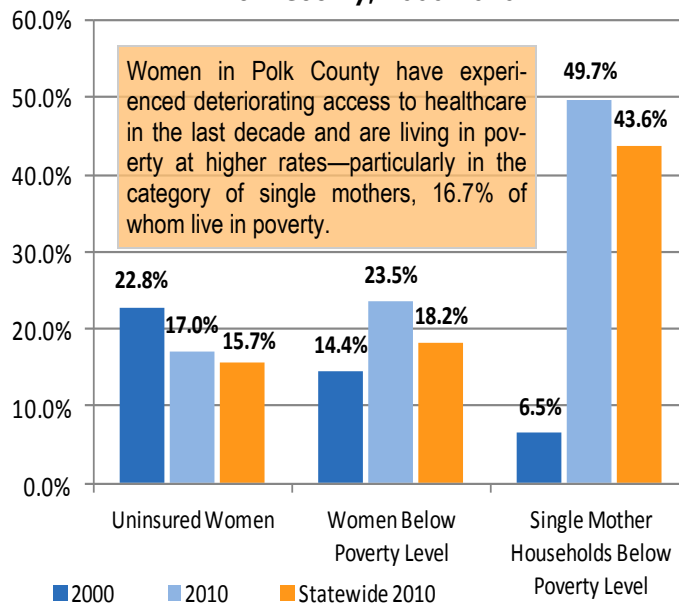
## Living

**Polk** County was home to the largest population of women without health insurance in 2000. Bucking statewide trends in which the number of uninsured has as much as doubled, Polk's population actually decreased from 22.8 percent of women in the county to 17 percent. While still 1.3 percent higher than the statewide rate, this is a remarkable development, and results in a improvement in rank from 95th to 66th in the state.

Unfortunately, poverty rates reflected state trends much more closely, with the rate increasing for women overall as well as for single women with children under 18. At-large, nearly one in four women in Polk are now living in poverty, and this rate doubles when considering single mothers. Both rates exceed state figures by a sizeable amount as well, and are ranked 74th and 62nd, down significantly from 32nd and 12th, respectively.

As with dropouts, no teen pregnancies were detected in the county, with a similar result in rankings.

## Health and Poverty Indicators for Women: Polk County, 2000-2010



# About the Council and this Report

The **Status of Women in Tennessee Counties** report offers an economic profile of women in each county of Tennessee and examines how women's rights and equality vary among the counties. The report presents data and overall rankings in two categories of women's economic status: employment and earnings and economic autonomy. Indicators of women's status in each category make up the composite rankings of the counties.

The employment and earnings section presents data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percent of management occupations held by women.

The economic autonomy section includes information on the percentage of businesses owned by women, educational attainment levels, percentage of women with any kind of health insurance, percentage of women living in poverty and percentage of single female-headed households living in poverty, the female high school dropout rate and the teen pregnancy rate.

The **Tennessee Economic Council on Women** was created in 1998 by the Tennessee General Assembly to assess Tennessee women's economic status. The Council develops and advocates solutions to address women's needs in order to help women achieve economic autonomy. In setting its priorities, the Council selects issues that are timely and likely to result in positive changes for women.

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Visit the Economic Council on Women at [www.tennesseewomen.org](http://www.tennesseewomen.org)

SOURCES	
Employment and Earnings	
Median Annual Earnings for Full Time Employed Females	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Selected Economic Characteristics' *
Wage Gap (Female Earnings as Percent of Male Earnings)	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Selected Economic Characteristics'
Female Labor Force Participation Rate	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Employment Status'
Female Unemployment Rate	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Employment Status'
Percent of Management Occupations Held by Women	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Occupation by Sex and Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months for Full-Time, Year-Round Civilian Employed Population, 16 year and older'
Economic Autonomy	
Women-Owned Businesses Percent of Total	U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 Survey of Business Owners 'Statistics for All U.S. Firms by Industry, Gender, Ethnicity, and Race...' † ‡
Percent of Females with 4-Yr Degree or More (Age 25+)	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Educational Attainment'
Percent of Females with High School Diploma (Age 25+)	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Educational Attainment'
Female High School Dropout Rate	Tennessee Department of Education, 2011-2012 School Year
Percent of Women Uninsured (65 or under)	U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates
Percent of Women Below Poverty Level	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months'
Percent of Female-headed Households with Children in Poverty	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months of Families' *
Rate of Pregnancy for Girls 15-19 (per 1000)	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Fertility' *

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